

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** HB 957 Designation of School Grades

**SPONSOR(S):** Shoaf and others

**TIED BILLS:** None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 434

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**FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:** 117 Y's 0 N's

**GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Pending

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### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 957 passed the House on March 10, 2020, as CS/SB 434.

School grades are used to measure a school's performance under Florida's statewide accountability system for public schools. The school grade calculation for high schools includes:

- the percentage of students passing statewide, standardized assessments in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies;
- the percentage of students making learning gains in ELA and mathematics;
- the percentage of students in the lowest 25 percent of ELA and mathematics performers who make learning gains;
- the 4-year graduation rate; and
- the percentage of students who were eligible to earn college and career credit through acceleration mechanisms (i.e. Advanced Placement examinations, International Baccalaureate examinations, dual enrollment courses, or Advanced International Certificate of Education examinations, and Career and Professional Education industry certifications).

Only the percentage of dual enrollment students who were eligible to earn credit through college-credit-bearing dual enrollment courses are included in the college and career acceleration component of the school grade calculation. Students who receive career dual enrollment instruction based on clock hours are not currently included in the college and career acceleration component of the school grades calculation.

Career dual enrollment is provided as an option for high school students to earn Career and Professional Education (CAPE) industry certifications, which are approved annually by the State Board of Education (SBE) through the adoption of the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.

The bill revises the school grades calculation for high schools by allowing a student who completes career dual enrollment courses, resulting in 300 or more clock hours during high school, leading to industry certifications on the funding list to be included in the college and career acceleration component of the school grades calculation.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact. See Fiscal Comments.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the bill has an effective date of July 1, 2020.

## I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

### A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

#### Present Situation

##### **School Grades**

School grades are used to measure a school's performance under Florida's statewide accountability system for public schools. A school's grade may include up to eleven components.<sup>1</sup> The base calculation used to determine a school's grade includes: the percentage of eligible students who pass statewide, standardized assessments in English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science; the percentage of student learning gains in ELA and mathematics; and the percentage of students in the lowest 25 percent of ELA and mathematics performers who make learning gains.<sup>2</sup> Middle and high school grades include additional components for the percentage of students passing statewide, standardized assessments in social studies, acceleration and career readiness, and graduation rates, as applicable.<sup>3</sup> Each component is worth up to 100 points in the overall calculation.<sup>4</sup> School grades are also used to determine whether a school must select or implement a turnaround option<sup>5</sup> or whether a school is eligible for school recognition funds as appropriated by the Legislature.<sup>6</sup>

A school's grade is calculated by adding the number of points earned for each component together and dividing it by the total number of available points to determine the percentage of points earned.<sup>7</sup> The school grading scale is as follows:<sup>8</sup>

- "A" = 62 percent of points or greater.
- "B" = 54 percent to 61 percent of points.
- "C" = 41 percent to 53 percent of points.
- "D" = 32 percent to 40 percent of points.
- "F" = 31 percent of points or less.

For high schools, the school's grade includes the following additional components:

- The 4-year high school graduation rate of the school as defined by State Board of Education (SBE) rule.<sup>9</sup>
- The percentage of students who pass the statewide, standardized U.S. History end-of-course assessment, in the graduation cohort.<sup>10</sup>
- The percentage of students who earn college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) examinations, International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations, dual enrollment courses, or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) examinations; or who, at any time during high school, earned a Career and Professional Education (CAPE) industry certification identified in SBE rule.<sup>11</sup> A student may be included in the acceleration component only once.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See s. 1008.34(3)(b), F.S.; Rule 6A-1.09981(4)(a)-(c), F.A.C.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> See s. 1008.34(3)(b)1.i., F.S.; s. 1008.34(3)(b)2.a.-b., F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(b), F.A.C.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(c), F.A.C.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1008.34(3)(b)1., F.S.; section 1008.34(3)(a), F.S. Each school must assess at least 95 percent of its eligible students and receive a school grade based on these components. If a school does not have at least 10 students with complete data for one or more of the components, those components may not be used in calculating the school's grade.

<sup>5</sup> See s. 1008.33(4), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> See s. 1008.36, F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 1008.34(3)(c)1., F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Rule 6A-1.09981(4)(d)3., F.A.C.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1008.34(3)(b)2.a., F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(c)1., F.A.C.

<sup>10</sup> See s. 1008.34(3)(b)1.d., F.S. and rule 6A-1.09422(4)(f), F.A.C.

<sup>11</sup> Section 1008.34(3)(b)2.b., F.S.; rule 6A-1.09981(4)(c)2., F.A.C.

<sup>12</sup> Rule 6A-1.09981(4)(c)3., F.A.C.

Only college credit-bearing courses are considered dual enrollment courses for the purposes of the school grade calculation.<sup>13</sup> Non-college credit (clock hour) career dual enrollment courses are not included in the school grade calculation.<sup>14</sup> Because students who attain a qualifying industry certification during high school are included in the acceleration component, districts may choose to place students interested in career pathways in shorter industry certification programs instead of other advanced programs that culminate in a career credential after high school graduation at a technical college or Florida College System institution.

### **Career Dual Enrollment**

Career dual enrollment must be provided as a curricular option for high school students to earn an industry certification that counts as credit toward a high school diploma and which may articulate toward college credit.<sup>15</sup> Career dual enrollment includes courses offered through career certificate clock hour programs and career associate degree (college credit) programs leading to a CAPE industry certification that are approved annually by the SBE through the adoption of the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.<sup>16</sup>

For career certificate dual enrollment courses, the Department of Education awards a one-half credit in an equivalent high school course for each 75 hours in the career certificate course, rounded down to the nearest one-half credit.<sup>17</sup> Students must demonstrate readiness for college-level or career-level coursework. A student must have a 2.0 unweighted GPA for enrollment in career certificate courses.<sup>18</sup>

Each district career center must enter into a career dual enrollment agreement with each high school in any school district it serves.<sup>19</sup> The agreement must include specific terms related to available courses and programs, equivalent high school course credits, student and parent outreach and enrollment, eligibility requirements, and the delineation of costs associated with providing transportation to students who are unable to provide their own.<sup>20</sup>

### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The bill incentivizes schools to enroll students in career clock hour dual enrollment courses by revising the school grades calculation for high schools. Specifically, a student who completes career dual enrollment courses, resulting in 300 or more clock hours during high school, leading to industry certifications on the funding list may be included in the college and career acceleration component of the school grades calculation.

## **II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

### **A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

#### **1. Revenues:**

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<sup>13</sup> Rule 6A-1.09981(4)(c)2.b., F.A.C.

<sup>14</sup> Rule 6A-14.030(1)(a)1.-2., F.A.C.

<sup>15</sup> In the career dual enrollment course list approved by the SBE, 75 clock hours is equivalent to 0.5 high school credit; 2.0 high school credits are equivalent to 300 hours. Florida Department of Education, *2019-2020 Dual Enrollment Course – High School Subject Area Equivalency List, Career Dual Enrollment Credit* (approved by the SBE on May 22, 2019), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5421/urlt/CareerTechList1920.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Rule 6A-6.0574, F.A.C.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> Section 1007.271(3), F.S.

<sup>19</sup> Section 1007.271(7), F.S.

<sup>20</sup> Section 1007.271(7)(a)-(f), F.S.

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

High schools that are able to include additional students in the college and career acceleration component of their school grade calculation may earn a higher school grade. If the high school is not already eligible to receive funds from the Florida School Recognition funds, the higher school grade may make the high school eligible for the funds.<sup>21</sup> The Florida School Recognition Program funds are annually appropriated in the Florida Education Finance Program and the allocation of the funds are annually adjusted on the number of schools that are eligible.

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<sup>21</sup> Section 1008.36(4), F.S.